WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A method, comprising:
2	determining whether a speech option is selected at an origin device; and
3	when the speech option is selected, converting input speech to text and
4	transmitting an instant message comprising the text.
1	2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2	when speech is not selected at the origin device, receiving input text and
3	transmitting the instant message, wherein the instant message comprises the input text.
1	3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2	receiving the instant message;
3	determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and
4	when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the input
5	text to speech.
1	4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2	receiving the instant message;
3	determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and
4	when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the text to
5	speech.
1	5. The method of claim 4, wherein the speech option at the destination device is
2	independent of the speech option at the origin device.
1	6. A method, comprising:
2	receiving an instant message at a destination-client device, wherein the instant
3	message comprises text; and

- 4 determining whether a speech option at the destination-client device is selected
- 5 and if true converting the text to speech.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein when the determining operation is false, displaying the
- 2 text.
- 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the speech option at the destination-client device is
- 2 independent of a speech option at an origin-client device, wherein the origin-client device
- 3 originated the instant message.
- 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the instant message is received across a long-lived
- 2 connection.
- 1 10. A computing device, comprising:
- 2 a text-to-speech converter to convert text in a received instant message to speech
- 3 when a speech option is selected, independent of whether a sender of the instant message
- 4 performed speech input.
- 1 11. The computing device of claim 10, further comprising:
- a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text in an instant message to be
- 3 transmitted when the speech option is selected.
- 1 12. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the received instant message is received
- 2 across a long-lived connection.
- 1 13. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the received instant message is received via
- 2 a request-reply pair.
- 1 14. An instant-messaging system, comprising:
- 2 an instant-messaging server;

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3	a controller to determine whether a speech option is selected at an origin-client
4	device and to send an instant message to the instant-messaging server; and
5	a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text when the speech option is
6	selected, wherein the instant message comprises the text.
1	15. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to
2	receive the instant message on a long-lived connection.
1	16. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to
2	send the instant message to a destination-client device.
1	17. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to
2	drop the instant message when a destination-client device is not connected.
1	18. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, further comprising:
1	a destination controller to determine whether a speech option is selected at a
2	
3	destination-client device; and
4	a text-to-speech converter to convert text to speech when the speech option at the
5	destination-client device is selected independent of the speech option at an the origin-
6	client device.
1	19. An instant-messaging system, comprising:
2	an instant messaging server;
3	an origin-client device, comprising:
4	an origin controller to determine whether an origin-speech option is
5	selected at the origin-client device and to send an instant message to the instant-
6	messaging server,
7	a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text when the origin-speech
8	option is selected, wherein the instant message comprises the text; and
9	a destination-client device, comprising:

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10	a destination controller to determine whether a destination-speech option is
11	selected at the destination-client device and to receive the instant message from
12	the instant-messaging server, and
13	a text-to-speech converter to convert the text to speech when the
14	destination-speech option is selected.
1	20. The instant-messaging system of claim 19, wherein the origin-speech option is
2	independent of the destination-speech option.
1	21. A signal-bearing medium comprising instructions, wherein the instructions when read
2	and executed by a processor comprise:
3	determining whether a speech option is selected at an origin device; and
4	when the speech option is selected, converting input speech to text and
5	transmitting an instant message to an instant-messaging server, wherein the instant
6	message comprises the text.
1	22. The signal-bearing medium of claim 21, further comprising:
2	when speech is not selected at the origin device, receiving input text and
3	transmitting the instant message to the instant-messaging server, wherein the instant
4	message comprises the input text.
1	23. The signal-bearing medium of claim 21, further comprising:
2	receiving the instant message from the instant-messaging server;
3	determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and
4	when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the text to
5	speech.
1	24. The signal-bearing medium of claim 22, further comprising:
2	receiving the instant message from the instant-messaging server;
3	determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and
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- 4 when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the input
- 5 text to speech.
- 1 25. The signal-bearing medium of claim 23, wherein the speech option at the destination
- 2 device is independent of the speech option at the origin device.
- 1 26. A pager, comprising:
- 2 a text-to-speech converter to convert text in a received instant message to speech
- 3 when a speech option is selected, independent of whether a sender of the instant message
- 4 performed speech input.
- 1 27. The pager of claim 26, further comprising:
- 2 a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text in an instant message to be
- 3 transmitted when the speech option is selected.
- 1 28. The pager of claim 26, wherein the received instant message is received across a long-
- 2 lived connection.
- 1 29. The pager device of claim 26, wherein the received instant message is received via a
- 2 request-reply pair.

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